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SENATE MEMORIAL 89

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Jane M. Garcia

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO STUDY THE DISPARITIES IN AMOUNTS OF COPAYMENTS BETWEEN ORALLY AND INTRAVENOUSLY ADMINISTERED CHEMOTHERAPY MEDICATIONS.

WHEREAS, the emergence of clinically proven safe and effective orally and intravenously administered anticancer medications has significantly increased treatment options for patients; and

WHEREAS, oncologists have significantly improved the care of patients by utilizing both orally and intravenously administered chemotherapy medications; and

WHEREAS, greater patient out-of-pocket cost creates a barrier for oral anticancer therapies covered under the pharmacy benefit of a health care plan; and

WHEREAS, intravenously administered anticancer medications

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1 are typically covered under a health care plan's medical
2 benefits and require only an office visit copayment, but orally
3 administered chemotherapy medications are typically covered by
4 the prescription drug benefit and require significant copayment
5 or coinsurance to fill the prescription at a pharmacy;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
7 OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested to
8 identify the disparity in patient copayments between orally and
9 intravenously administered chemotherapies and to study the
10 reasons for the disparity and report to the legislative health
11 and human services committee by September 2009; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the secretary of health.

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